Bee Friendly: Garden to Attract Pollinators

POLLINATORS provide invaluable services, most especially in plant reproduction for food and flowers. Yet their populations are in decline. Learn how to accommodate these important creatures in the ways you maintain your gardens and landscapes at Go Native U’s Back-to-School event, Attracting and Supporting Pollinators, September 27, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., at Westchester Community College, Classroom Building, Room 100.

Discover the native plants that sustain bees and other pollinators in Native Perennials: Summer/Fall with Go Native U co-founder Barbara Fischer. Find out how to create valuable habitats in Meadowscaping at Home with Kim Eierman, founder of EcoBeneficial. Learn to recognize different bee species and their nesting habits so you can make a difference in Identifying and Supporting Local Wild Bees with Sarah Kornbluth of the American Museum of Natural History; this class may move outdoors depending on weather.

Attend one, two, or all three courses. Earn up to 6 LA-CES credits. To register, call 914-606-6830 and press 1.

Native Plant Center Honored with Two Awards

The Native Plant Center will receive the Westchester Parks Foundation’s Special Recognition for Service to Parks on September 19 at the County Center in White Plains.

The Native Plant Center is being distinguished for its “dedication of 20 years to the native plants and natural landscapes of Westchester County,” and its creation and promotion of the county’s executive order calling for native plants to be used exclusively in county parks and properties. To attend the gala, call 914-231-4600 or visit thewpf.org.

In May, the New American Cottage Garden won a Planning Achievement Award from the Westchester Municipal Planning Federation. The new demonstration garden is located behind the Center’s headquarters at Westchester Community College.

The Center appreciates these prestigious acknowledgments that spotlight native plants, and is grateful to everyone who, through their services and gifts, enable such notable achievements.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

20/20 Vision: The Future Is Now

According to the American Optometric Association, having 20/20 vision indicates the sharpness or clarity of vision at a distance. With the year 2020 just months away, The Native Plant Center appreciates the foresight of its founders while it focuses on today and prepares for tomorrow. With the new school season upon us, let’s look at these “three Rs.”

Ready This year the Steering Committee, guided by the pro-bono services of leadership development consultant Dr. Gene Buccini, adopted a five-year strategic plan that aims to expand education programs and community outreach, enhance our gardens and campus landscape, and cultivate people and revenue resources.

Renewal Among the many objectives in the plan is the expansion and renovation of the Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden (see story p. 3). On October 8, 1999—20 years ago—Mrs. Johnson and her daughters, Lynda Johnson Robb and Luci Baines Johnson (pictured at right), attended the dedication ceremony of the garden in her name here at the college. Since then the garden has been teaching visitors and students about the ornamental use of native plants, while keeping the legacy of Mrs. Johnson alive. It also introduces the former First Lady to generations of students.

Research The garden restoration also includes a trial research bed that will fulfill another wish: to engage the college’s faculty in integrating native plant instruction into curriculum. The Center and a few of the college’s biology professors are establishing the groundwork of an exciting partnership with the Chicago Botanic Garden and its nationwide Budburst initiative. The Nativars Research Project will engage our students and volunteers in observing and recording whether “nativars,” the cultivated varieties of native plants, differ from their parent species in their attractiveness to pollinators. We intend to train in the protocol and plant the bed this fall, and begin collecting data in spring.

We invite you to volunteer and contribute to these projects; please email us.

A term heard recently is “plant blindness,” the inability of people to notice plants in their surroundings. The Native Plant Center, however, has been privileged to be surrounded by people who recognize our interconnectedness with plants and have led—and will lead—us in sharing that clarity of vision with others, in 2020 and the years beyond.

—Carol Capobianco

Volunteers Provide Hands-on Garden Help

Many thanks go to the several Native Plant Center volunteers and the students and staff of the White Plains Youth Bureau’s Greening Project who worked this season to spruce up the Center’s gardens.

Among their contributions were removal of invasive plants, re-establishment of a rock-lined, wood-chipped path in the Bird Garden, and rescue and transfer of native plants from the restoration project site (see p. 3) to other gardens.

If you would like to help and learn hands-on in our gardens, please email us.

The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College

Steering Committee

Co-Chairs Angel Morris • Ken Uhle
Brooke Beebe, Jacquelyn Bergonzi, Jan Blaire, Bob DelTorto, Nancy Dexter, Kim Eierman, Melissa Fabel, Barbara Fischer, Karalyn Lamb, Ursula LaMotte, Catherine Ludden, Guy Pardee, Heather Sandifer, Denise C.R. Santomero, Jessica A. Schuler, Carolyn Summers, Phillis Warden, Elizabeth S. Wattles, Lucille Werlinich, Anthony Zaino

Founders

Marybeth Weston Lobdell • Marie Smith Schwartz • Betsy May Stern

Staff

Carol Capobianco, Director
Jeanne Lapsker, Garden Curator/Educator

About

The Native Plant Center is a program of the Westchester Community College Foundation and the first affiliate of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Our Mission

Educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants in the Northeast

Contact

The Native Plant Center
Westchester Community College
75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595
nativeplantcenter.org • 914-606-7870
wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu
New Look Ahead for Lady Bird Johnson Teaching Garden

The 20-year-old Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden is getting a makeover.

The Native Plant Center has begun a multi-year project to renovate and expand the garden to illustrate how to incorporate native plants using sustainable design elements such as screening, wildlife habitat, horticultural beauty, limited lawn area, and stormwater management.

The current phase will create a buffer garden between the central meadow and 300-car parking lot, a site that had been overgrown, unsightly, and never cultivated.

Once transformed, this new 11,000-square-foot area will offer additional opportunities for teaching about native plants and illustrate their usefulness as a functional feature in a well-designed landscape.

The expansion is expected to increase the number of species in The Native Plant Center’s living collection by 15 percent.

Ken Uhle, the landscape architect who designed our award-winning New American Cottage Garden, created the design for the project (above) pro-bono. Volunteers, students, and contracted work crews have removed invasive trees, brush, and boulders. Grading and layout of bed lines and paths are under way. The goal is to install trees and shrubs this fall and perennials in spring before continuing with other phases of the project.

To volunteer or contribute to the project, please email us.

Go Native U
Fall 2019 Classes:
Register Today!

Core Classes
**Introduction to Native Plants and Landscapes**
2 Fri., Nov. 8 & 15, 10 am–1:30 pm
(30-minute lunch break), CLA-100, $130.
Carolyn Summers.

Elective Classes
**Back-to-School: Attracting and Supporting Pollinators**
Fri., Sept. 27, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. See cover story for description.

**Native Plant Gardening for Migrating & Overwintering Birds**
Wed., Oct. 2, 10 am–1 pm, CLA-100, $80.
Kim Eierman.

**NEW! Effortless and Evergreen—Deer-Resistant Native Groundcovers**
Move over pachysandra, myrtle, and mulch. Discover the many native groundcovers that are easy to grow, shunned by deer, and offer year-round interest. Create a living mulch that provides seasonal beauty, is beneficial to wildlife, and moderates soil temperature and moisture.
Missy Fabel.

**NEW! The Four-Season Native Garden**
Learn which native plants extend the showiness and textural interest of your garden through fall and winter with beautiful foliage, striking structure, colorful branches, berries, and seed pods.
Fri., Oct. 11, 10 am–1 pm, CLA-100, $80.
Kim Eierman.

**NEW! Landscaping for Higher Ecosystem Function**
Find out how to leverage the ecosystem function in your landscape to support wildlife and people.
Fri., Oct. 18–Nov. 1, 10 am–12 pm, CLA-100, $130. Kim Eierman.

**NEW! Maintaining an Indoor Moss Garden**
Learn to identify common woodland mosses and proper watering techniques. Then create an indoor garden with fresh, commercially grown moss to take home.
3 Sat., Oct. 19, 11 am–1 pm, KNC-2, $55 (+ $35 materials fee, payable to instructor). Maria Colletti.

**Designing Native Plant Gardens**
2 Tues., Oct. 22 & 29, 7–9 pm, KNC-3, $90. Lynn Becker.

For all course descriptions and instructor information, visit our website. Most classes approved for LA-CES credits.
To register, call 914-606-6830 and press 1. A percentage of tuition supports the work of The Native Plant Center.
Save These Dates

**March 9, 2020**  
The Native Plant Center  
Spring Landscape Conference

**April 25, 2020**  
21st Annual Native Plant Sale  
Westchester Community College

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Support The Native Plant Center—Please Join Today!

I'd like to become a Member of The Native Plant Center  
(For details about membership benefits, please visit our website.)

$50 Friend  •  $100 Household and Garden Clubs/Organizations  •  $150 Supporting  
$250 Advocate  •  $500 Sustaining  •  $1,000 Conservator  •  $3,000 Heritage Circle

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Matching contributions are appreciated; contact your employer for details.

Member's Name __________________________________________  E-mail _______________________________________
Address __________________________________________________  Phone _______________________________________

Gift-giver Name (if applicable) ____________________________  E-mail ____________________________
Address __________________________________________________  Phone _______________________________________

Make checks payable to: The Native Plant Center, 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595
MC, Visa, or Discover # ____________________________  Exp. Date ____________________________  CVV code __________
Total amount to charge account $ ____________  Name of Cardholder ____________________________
Mail  •  Fax: 914-606-6143  •  E-mail: wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu  •  OR Pay online: mysunywcc.org/donations
Friends of The Native Plant Center

The Native Plant Center is grateful to all its donors and members whose generous contributions have supported our work to educate people about the value of native plants, August 1, 2018–July 31, 2019

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